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HUNTING ROCK HARES.
A Fleet Little Animal Found Among the Sand Hills of Arabia.
How long the Arab has inhabited the deserts of the near east is a much discussed question. How long he has indulged in the off time sport of falconry it is equally difficult to say. Sure it is that this keen blooded race has not lived all these centuries in those sun scorched wastes without some sort of recreation, and his delights today are probably much the same as those of his ancestors a couple of thousand years ago.
Curious to see what natural sport these barren regions could afford, the writer accepted an invitation to join a party of Syrian Arabs for a week's hunting. Our quarry was the rock hare, an animal about the size of an English rabbit, but with very fine developed ears, which frequently these deserts in small numbers, living on what scanty herbage it can find.
We started straight away in search of it by forming a chain about a quarter of a mile long and drawing like-ly tracts of desert in long serpentine sweeps. The herbage was very scant indeed. These sand hills, being searched by a tropical sun and having a yearly rainfall of only some three inches, support but few plants of any kind. I noticed a few insectivorous birds pursuing their prey with keen voracity, as though they found it hard to make a living, but saw no trace of wild animals.
On we marched in silent order, merely following the lead of our falcon bearer, whose face seemed invariably, his manner unmoved. Hours passed by. It was now 11 o'clock. The sun was hot above us, drying up our parched lips. I began to think that rock hares must be a myth when suddenly the hound leaped forward with a great bound, our horses instinctively following at full gallop. But we had not far to go. It was only a "gar-bour." The hound was soon up to it, and I thought it was all over; but, no—the little creature leaped, as it were, right out of his mouth.
One spring brought the greyhound alongside again, but again this agile quadruped had slipped out of the grasp of his sharp teeth. The speed of the tiny thing was so great and its actions so sudden that it was as much as the eye could do to follow it at all. Again its great pursuer sprang upon it; again this nimble animal slipped from his very jaws. But it was no good. It was outclassed in size. These great leaps shook the very life breath from its frail body.
At last it fell an easy prey to its relentless enemy, and one crunch put an end to its miseries. It was an interesting little beast, its body about the size of a rat. It carried a fine long coat, was gray on the back, with white under the belly, having a long bony tail with a pretty tuft at the end. But its hind legs were its great feature. They were very long, being, like those of the kangaroo, specially adapted for jumping. I noted, too, that each hind foot was provided with only three toes, whereas on those of the fore legs, which were very short, there were the normal five. Altogether it was a most interesting and sporting specimen.—"Near East."

Descendants of David.
The history of the Sassoons is one of the most dramatic in the very dramatic story of the Hebrew race. The original Sassoon was a Bombay merchant, but the family is descended from a group known as Ibn Shoshan, who at one time held the position of nassi of Toledo. The name Shoshan, which signifies "lily" in Hebrew, was gradually transformed into Sassoon, signifying "gladness." The family claim Davidic descent, and Abraham Sassoon, who flourished in the seventeenth century, stated that he was a direct descendant of Shephatiah, the fifth son of David. Not only are there many references to the name in Hebrew mediæval literature, but mention of it is made in the Talmud.—London M. A. P.

Home Helps.
When one has an old barn roof to remove do not try the ancient, laborious way of pulling out the nails. Take a magnet and hold it over the head of the nail till the nail comes out.
To keep the hands perfectly clean and white while the stove is being polished let some one else polish it. There are other alleged methods, but this will prove surest.
The best way to mark an umbrella is to embroider the name of the owner on the little strap for fastening it when it is rolled. Then the person who swipes it can destroy the mark without mutilating any vital part of the umbrella.
To disguise the taste of castor oil put in three drops of bitter almonds, a bit of asafetida, a touch of rochele salts and two drops of sulphuretted hydrogen.
To keep red or pink or maroon or cerise ants out of a refrigerator build a trough entirely around it and fill the trough with sorghum molasses or maple sirup or some other form of muck-lage.—Chicago News.

A One Volume Man.
A curious example of generous ob- stinacy was a stout English country- man who inquired for a nice book to read—"one with a story in." On sev- eral being placed before him, he exam- ined them attentively and picked out the middle volume of a "three decker" with the remark: "This 'ere's my sort. What's the price?"
"Oh," was the reply, "this is only the second volume. The story goes through three. The set is half a crown."
"Havve a crown! Well, I'll gie ye that for that one book. It's a pretty one enough."
"But won't you have the other two as well? You'd better."
"Naw, I don't like th' beginnin' of a story. I can't get forrard w' it. An' I don't like th' endin'. I don't know as 'ow it's comed about. But in th' middle un I'm into th' thick of it right off. No, I'll tak' th' middle un. It'll set me up for a month." And, cram- ming the book into his pocket, he put down his half crown and disappeared with a "Good night" before the other volumes could be given to him.—Cham- bers' Journal.

The Diamond Remains a Mystery.
As a substance the diamond is one of the mysteries of nature, one of the despairs of science. Nobody knows whence it came or how, whether it is a spark from a comet's tail or a crys- tallized drop squeezed in some horri- ble intensity of fiery convulsion from the white hot insurgent heart of the earth. Nobody knows much about it at all, except that it doesn't belong to this world. Some known black dia- monds literally were from the skies. They came imbedded in meteorites east upon Arizona and Chile by an unidentified star. One does not pros- pect for chips of stars. As well search for the end of the rainbow. Neither is it practical to hammer all sorts of eruptive rock and conglomerate where- ever come upon. Earthquake or vol- canic upheaval districts are not neces- sarily the most promising, for often diamonds that seem to have had vol- canic origin occur thousands of miles from the probable place of extrusion, carried thence. It is assumed, by glacial drift in some far back geolog- ical time.—Franklin Clark in Every- body's Magazine.

Struck a Bargain.
An old woman recently entered an optician's shop and asked to look at some spectacles. Choosing a pair, she asked the price.
"Five shillings," was the answer.
"And how much are they without the case?"
"I could not sell them for less than 4s. 10d.," said the tradesman, who was determined to get all he could.
"Do you only take off twopence for the case?" queried the woman.
"That is all. The case is worth no more than twopence," was the reply.
"That is good news!" ejaculated the old lady, with a sigh of relief. "It's the case for which I have lost."
So saying, she laid down the twopence and marched off with the cor- rected case before the astonished shopkeep- er had time to interfere.—London Mail.

Taking After Father.
"It has its father's nose."
"And its mother's eyes!"
"And Aunt Alice's mouth!"
"And Uncle Ebenezer's ears!"
Such, multiplied by about a hun- dred, were the criticisms leveled by kind friends against the Fitzboodles baby.
Then the unconcerned baby began to calmly chew his big toe.
"Ah!" murmured Mr. Fitzboodles. "Baby is certainly endowed with some of my wife's chief characteristics."
"Not to mention you, Fritz Fitzbood- les!" snapped his wife. "Baby never opens his mouth without putting his foot in it!"

Maternal Instinct.
We talk about "maternal instinct." There is no such thing. To be sure, there are things that have to do with young which females possess and males lack. The wasp lays its egg on the body of the caterpillar for the larva it will never see. The hen sits twenty one days on any roundish, whitish ob- ject of the proper size. I have seen at a children's party every little girl leave the supper table on the advent of a baby and every little boy go stolidly on with his supper. But each kind of mother has its own bundle of instinc- tive reactions. There is no "maternal instinct" in the abstract.—McClure's Magazine.

Worrying About His Gas Bill.
"Madam, your husband has gas- tritis."
"Well, I do my best, doctor, to keep him away from the meter, but he will spend a lot of time in that damp cel- lar studying it."—New York Press.

So There.
"Of course you will get a flat when you are married and keep house?"
"George isn't such a flat as some people who are envious think he is, and it's none of your business if we keep house or board!"—Exchange.

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"Perfectly. The lion didn't even of- fer to touch me."
"Strange! How do you account for it?"
"Well, sometimes I've thought it was because I sat down on a branch of a very tall tree."
Very Queer.
"My husband has been out late every evening this week attending important club meetings."
"Yes, so has mine. They belong to the same club, you know."
"Why, how queer! My husband says he hasn't seen your husband in six months!"—Cleveland Leader.

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